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Cease-Fire Developments

DIA review(s) completed.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

"Heavy Fighting" Reported in Kontum Province

A US officer in Kontum City reports that there

has been "heavy fighting" for more than a week between South Vietnamese regulars and Communist forces about ten kilometers northwest of the city. fighting apparently involves substantial tactical air and artillery strikes and has resulted in some 300 South Vietnamese casualties. 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1

22 May 1973

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The Military Situation

The Khmer Communists appear to have launched their long-predicted offensive against the government's riverine base at Neak Luong. They probed government defensive positions north, east and west of Neak Luong early on 22 May, and rocketed the town itself. After US air strikes enemy activity subsided. Farther north, other Communist units struck government positions on the east bank of the Mekong midway between Phnom Penh and Neak Luong on the same day, causing the evacuation of one government brigade from the area.

South of the capital, government forces have encountered no resistance in their slow advance along Route 3. Only about two miles of the highway north of Tram Khnar remains to be cleared, but other government attempts to clear a short segment of Route 2 south of Takeo have been stalled. In the west, Route 4 remains closed about 15 miles east of the port of Kompong Som. Reinforcements are on their way to the area to help clear that vital highway. Only slight progress is reported in government clearing operations along Route 5 northwest of Phnom Penh.

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